The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information as will benefit the trade union movement.

AGITATE!
EDUCATE!
ORGANIZE!

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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FORCED IMMIGRATION CAUSED OHIO MILL RIOT

Cincinnati, Feb. 5.—Gun men started the East Youngstown riot, President Campbell of the Youngstown Sheet and Tube company opposes night schools, and few children attend the public schools in that Ohio mill town.

The above statements are made feature of a report by President Voll and Secretary-Treasurer Donnelly of the state federation of labor to the executive board of that organization after a personal investigation of conditions in East Youngstown.

These unionists say, in part:

"We found that the private police employed by the Youngstown Sheet and Tube company were the aggressors in the fighting preceding the riots and therefore responsible for inflaming the minds of the people. We found there was no provision for the education of foreigners who largely comprise the population in the contrary, the company through its president, Mr. James Campbell, objected to night schools for these people. Out of a population of between 5,000 and 6,000, there are only 621 voters in East Youngstown and 1,100 children in the schools. But 14 children are in the high school, 20 in the eighth grade, 5 in the seventh, 30 in the sixth, 35 in the fifth, 53 in the fourth and 52 in the first, second and third.

"After years of exploitation, both in and out of the mills, these men struck as their only means of protest against inhuman methods enforced upon them through a long, extensive and complete economic control by the companies. Compelled to work twelve hours a day, seven days a week, progress or advancement, either socially, educationally or economically, impossible, even if facilities were afforded them.

"The blame rightfully belongs upon the great steamship companies and trusts who, through advertisements and agents, picture milk-and-honey conditions to these people who are enticed from their native lands for the purpose of exploitation and lowering the wages and living standards of American workmen."

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The organized workers are asking that this law be changed so that occupational diseases are included and that the time limit benefits may be paid be reduced from two weeks to one week. The latter proposal has aroused Senator Verdier's ire. He says the workers are "soldiering," and that it is not the intention of the law "to pay for slight injuries which under proper care would speedily assist in the minds of workers and unionists that they should endeavor before themselves to secure an extra week's benefit. The plan to pay for the loss of an ear or an eye, as suggested upon by Senator Verdier as a scheme "to pay for compensation for spoiled beauty." He makes reference to the "well-supposed occupational disease amendment:

"What seems to me the most ridiculous and foolish amendment is the one to require compensation for disability or death caused by so-called occupational disease, that is, diseases contracted from and on account of the nature of a man's work."

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Trade unionists point out that as the American Federation of Labor grants complete autonomy to its affiliates on all matters referred to in the foregoing instructions to their executive board, there can be no reason why this international organization should not join with the great family of trade unions under the banner of the American Federation of Labor.

The convention also declared in favor of affiliating with the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada. The purpose of this organization is to urge remedial legislation for Dominion workers.

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Mitchell, Ind., Feb. 5.—The Lehigh Cement company continues its opposition to the Cement Workers' union, chartered by the A. F. of L., nearly two years ago. At that time the officials and active members of the new union were discharged, the company officials claiming that "there is too much unionism around here." Since then the unionists have continued their fight against the wages and a twelve-hour day. The company, however, has had its ear to the ground, and now announces that the eight-hour day will be installed and that no man's wages will be less than $2.70 a day.

The company still insists that it "will not recognize unionism," but the lockedout workers are calling attention to the company's acceptance of their principles.

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Washington, Feb. 5.—Through efforts of A. F. of L. Secretary Morrison, officials of Representative Lenroot, of the International Typographical union, the house committee on post offices and post roads has raised the maximum wages of printers employed in post offices to $1,500. The unionists objected to such a low limit, and called as "clerks," doing printer's work and pointed out to the committee the inadequacy of wages paid printers in the postal service and asked that the rates be increased from $1,500 to $1,800. The committee adopted this suggestion.

POWERS OF "STRAW" BOSSES.

New York, Feb. 5.—Secretary Shillady, secretary of the mayor's committee on unemployment, states that it has been the practice of certain firms to allow "straw bosses" to hire and discharge employes at their pleasure. In one instance it was found that 2,000 workers had been engaged and dismissed within twelve months from a firm which employs 1,000 persons. "This sort of thing is against the first principles of industry and is a danger to the community," said Secretary Shillady.

STRIKE ADJUSTED.

Boston, Feb. 5.—The New York, New Haven & Hartford railroad and its striking freight handlers have reached an agreement. These workers, together with Boston & Maine and Boston & Albany freight handlers, struck last October for wage increases and pay for holidays. The New Haven road was the last to settle.

MINERS WON'T AMALGAMATE

Indianapolis, Feb. 5.—By a unanimous vote the convention of the United Mine Workers of America decided not to amalgamate with the Western Federation of Miners.

This is in line with recommendations by a committee appointed by the United Mine Workers' union to consider the question of amalgamation with the metal miners. The committee pointed out that the work of the two unions—from a practical standpoint—is entirely different, and that an amalgamation would be unwise even in their respective attempts to organize the coal miners and the metal miners. In referring to the difference between the two industries, the report says:

"We want to the fact that while the metal miner, like the coal miner, is called upon to brave the dangers of a common calling underground, that the product of the metal miner in nowise enters into competition with that of the coal miner; in fact, his relationship to the coal mining industry is not so near, nor so important in time of industrial strife, as that of the men employed in the transportation industries. The close relation to us from a competitive standpoint so important as is that of the men employed in the production and marketing of oil and gas, and in the plants and manufacturers' plants of the separate electrical power. We cite the foregoing in order to make plain that the miners' union ought not to and industries separate and distinct so far as the competitive relationship of their product is concerned."

The convention supports this recommendation of the committee, which also declares: "A continuation of our present close relationship seems to us all that is desired, and we so recommend."

TRADE UNIONISM IN SCHOOLS.

Yakima, Wash., Feb. 5.—Trade unionism should be taught in the public schools, declared President Voll in his annual report to the Washington state federation of labor.

The collective bargaining be the best method for securing for labor the reward which it earns, which ought to the unionist, "surely the child who must eventually enter some vocation or other must be productive of good, ought to learn the essentials of collective bargaining. That involves a knowledge of the history of trade unionism, its relation to industry in all ages and among all races. Just as I would wish my child to know the history of steel, its relation to civilization as it developed in importance, as a building material, so should want him to know something of the human element with which this basic material is associated. Child labor has been too important a factor to be longer ignored in the schools but should be frankly studied in relationship to a view of learning both its strength and its weakness. There is no way to avoid the facts. Ignorance of a subject which plays so large a part in the history of every nation is criminal. Such pursuits have been at all developed, is far worse than knowledge of any defects in trade unionism ought to be a part of the curriculum of every high school and university."

BRANDEIS ON SUPREME BENCH.

Washington, Feb. 5.—President Wilson has appointed Louis Brandeis associate justice of the United States supreme court to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Associate Justice Lamar. The appointment must be approved by the senate, and will probably be considered by the senate committee on the judiciary.

The appointee is a Boston lawyer who has attracted much attention because of his activities on economic issues and remedial legislation in the state which evolved the protocol between the contending parties, and which continued in effect until last summer when the threatened strike forced employers to abandon their attempt to violate the agreement.

DON'T WEAKEN SEAMEN'S LAW.

Washington, Feb. 5.—Acting under instructions of the last convention, A. F. of L. officials have addressed a letter to all affiliated bodies requesting that they urge their respective senators and representatives to oppose any weakening of the seamen's law.

The San Francisco convention declared that "the freedom of the seamen and the safety of the traveling public demand at all times take precedence over private profit," and that "this body is unalterably opposed to the repeal of the seamen's law or any attempt to impair the safeguards which it sets up or to new bonds under which seamen have been compelled to labor."

START 8-HOUR CAMPAIGN.

Philadelphia, Feb. 5.—The A. F. of L. metal trades department will open its campaign for eight hours in Atlantic coast ship yards, Secretary Duncan, of whom President O'Connell, of the department, will be the principal speaker at a mass meeting of ship workers to be held at the Parkway building auditorium, this city.

The campaign was agreed to at the last convention of the department and indorsed by the A. F. of L. convention. Organizers of the A. F. of L. and the various metal unions will assist in the agitation.

COMPENSATION LAW UPHELD.

Oklahoma City, Okla., Feb. 5.—Judge Oldfield, of the district court, has upheld the constitutionality of the compensation law passed by the last legislature. A writ of mandamus was issued by the court to compel the state industrial commission to hear and determine the claim of Mrs. Campbell, objected to night schools for these people. Out of a population of between 5,000 and 6,000, there are only 621 voters in East Youngstown and 1,100 children in the schools. But 14 children are in the high school, 20 in the eighth grade, 5 in the seventh, 30 in the sixth, 35 in the fifth, 53 in the fourth and 52 in the first, second and third.

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BURNETT IMMIGRATION RESTRICTION BILL REPORTED FAVORABLY

Victims of Political and Religious Persecution Will Not Be Welcomed.

Washington, Feb. 5.—Last Monday the house committee on immigration reported favorably the Burnett immigration bill, in which is included the illiteracy test.

The bill is substantially the same as was passed by the last congress and vetoed by President Wilson, but in this instance the committee is more explicit in recommendations regarding the admission of those who seek to evade persecution because of religious or political beliefs.

The committee reports that the following be exempted from the operation of the illiteracy test:

"All aliens who shall prove to the satisfaction of the proper immigration officer or of the secretary of labor that they are seeking admission to the United States to avoid religious persecution in the country of their last permanent residence, whether such persecution be evidenced by overt acts or by laws or governmental regulations that discriminate against the alien or the race to which he belongs because of his religious faith.

"Nothing in this act shall exclude, if otherwise admissible, persons convicted, or who admit the commission, or who teach or advocate the commission, of an offense purely political.

"These exemptions clearly indicate that there is no intention on the part of those who favor American living standards to have this country abandon its historic mission to be a haven of refuge for political refugees. Under the proposed bill the political revolutionist, or he who is oppressed because of spiritual beliefs, is admitted, regardless of illiteracy test.

In their opposition to the continued dividends and cheap labor, steamship companies and industrial combines have been aided by thousands of sincere citizens who honestly believed a restriction bill would close America to those seeking freedom. Because of circumstances, these citizens found themselves unwilling allies of trust barons, who will now lose this powerful support as the purposes of restrictionists is better understood.

In urging the house to adopt the bill, Chairman Burnett of the committee, called attention to the "great labor and farmers' organizations of the country," the legislatures of Ohio, Virginia, Tennessee, Vermont and of many other states, together with other organizations that favor immigration restriction.

He stated that many of the ablest men of the country believe that after the European war millions of the most illiterate will come to this country. The best will stay at home to rehabilitate their stricken countries, and the worst will flock to our land and beat down the price of labor and create the lowest standard of living which decent men can conceive. Mr. Burnett made this comment on conditions that are now known to exist in East Youngstown, Ohio:

"Is it right that American laborers and their families should be forced to live amid such revolting environments and such debasing conditions? Yet that is the result of pouring in the millions of illiterates from Europe to beat down the wages of the man and boy who earns his bread by the sweat of his face. The illiteracy test is restrictive as well as selective and its normal times will keep out the scum of Europe such as brought about these conditions at Youngstown."

"The committee had labored earnestly in its efforts to keep out the most undesirable of those coming to our shores and at the same time encourage the immigration of those who come to make their homes with us, to promote the moral and material prosperity of our country and to become permanent citizens of our great government."

LIVING WAGE IS NECESSARY

Kansas City, Mo., Feb. 5.—Under the caption "Worthy of His Hire," the Kansas City Post says:

"If there was a question of finding money in the city treasury to pay the wages of political retainers used to fix the spring election, it is probable it would be found. But the question of obtaining the amount to add to the wages of the city's day laborers is another matter. In spite of the resolution of the council giving a 25-cent increase to the one class of city employes who really work, the boards who have charge of these men say it can't be done until the end of the fiscal year in April.

"Winter time is the period when this raise is most needed. With this inclement weather, few of the day laborers are able to make enough to buy food and soul together. Practically 80 per cent of them work outside and are deprived of a chance for employment in bad weather. Just how they manage to get food and warm clothing and fuel is a profound mystery. With comparatively steady work in the summer at from $3 to $3.50 a week, they have little chance to lay by savings for the winter season.

"It is a barbarous condition that is facing a great and prosperous city. It would be infinitely better for the boards which like laborers to delay some minor improvement than to longer tolerate the injustice to these workers. The members of the board could find the money needed. It is to their shame that they do not benefit themselves by doing that would complete the manifest justice started by the council. No criticism would be made of economy by the abandonment of some small plan by each of the boards. A more humane purpose is observed in the municipalities. If the laborers were able to put in every work day in the year they would receive the equal to the sum set by the government as the minimum needed for a decent living. The payment of an adequate wage to the thousand or more city employes of this class would stimulate trade of merchants selling food and clothing. It would allow the workers better housing and be of direct benefit to the community in every respect. It is essential that labor be an asset rather than a liability in making a city prosperous."

SAYS WORKERS MUST UNITE.

Detroit, Mich., Feb. 5.—"Every man who works in the ranks of labor owes it to himself and to every other man that can be a part and parcel of this movement," said Judge Jeffries, before a large meeting of organized street car workers in this city.

"The labor movement comprehends and includes everything that is for the good and the uplift and betterment of mankind. It is a civilizing movement.

"Whether you believe it or not, the men of organized labor have made more substantial progress than through any other channel.

"The strength of your union, as you know, is the strength of the whole body. It would be impossible for your union to succeed without the aid of those who struggled for years and years and who have devoted their time to organized labor.

"Even Mr. Rockefeller himself, the arch-captain of industry, has at last acknowledged the right of men to organize."

URGE UNION-MADE TEXT BOOKS.

Washington, Feb. 5.—In a circular to A. F. of L. organizers and affiliated bodies, Secretary Frank Morrison calls attention to the resolution passed by the San Francisco convention of the A. F. of L., in which it is stated that "the present war in Europe has brought to the world unquestionable doubt that many extensive changes in international boundaries will occur, making necessary the revision of existing school maps," and the close of the war will be followed by a general revision of public school books.

Secretary Morrison urges that an agitation be started in every public school books printed under union conditions and that school authorities, school teachers and other citizens interested in education be asked to assist.

CITIZENS ON PUBLIC WORKS.

Albany, N. Y., Feb. 5.—Trade unionists in this state are to be given a chance to get the anti-alien public works law of 1909 which was amended by the last legislature, in the interest of the employment of aliens when citizens are not available. This latter amendment was passed while the United States supreme court was considering the 1909 act, which was later declared constitutional. It is the duty of the state, as the guardian of the people's money, has the right to prescribe conditions under which it may be expended. In view of this decision, the state federation of labor will ask the legislature to re-enact the old law.

CULINARY WORKERS STRIKE.

Knoxville, Tenn., Feb. 5.—Waiters in this city are striking for living conditions and trade unionists are assisting these workers in developing a public sentiment to stop the police from denying peaceful picketing.

P. O. EMPLOYES DEFENDED

Parkersburg, W. Va., Feb. 5.—In a double-column editorial The State Journal of this city condemns most vigorously the conviction in Judge Dayton's federal court of a score of Fairmont postal employes who resigned their positions because of a failure to secure justice from the post office department and the civil service commission. The editor says, in part:

"It is well to bear in mind that the Fairmont postal employes were not indicted and prosecuted for a conspiracy to obstruct and retard the passage of the mails by the quickly quitting their employment. It was admitted by the government that they had used no other physical force than persuasion, intimidation or moral suasion to prevent others from taking their places. They undertook to exercise no control save that guaranteed them by control of themselves and their own services.

"If the government of the United states in the civil service has the right and the power to compel its employes to continue their services under these circumstances, and upon the contention that they are compelled to remain whether the employes will or no, then private interests and private employers have the same right and the same power.

"In such a proposition there is neither liberty nor justice. It is the creation of a despot would make such pretensions.

"As a champion of our free institutions, the A. F. of L. has been the gift of the fathers, and preserved by the immortal deeds of Washington, of Lincoln and of Lincoln. The State Journal protests. We call upon the West Virginia congressional delegation to ask for an inquiry turning the full light of publicity upon this attempt to beat down popular rights held sacred since the beginning."

CANADIAN IMMIGRATION WILL INCREASE AFTER WAR

Toronto, Ontario, Feb. 5.—In a report on immigration to the Canadian Industrial commission on unemployment says:

"The influx having been stopped by the war, there seems to be no reason why it should not be resumed upon the conclusion of peace. There are, indeed, factors in the situation which may operate to swell the migration. . . . Such immigration, if improperly directed or allowed to take care of itself may easily lead to the same unsatisfactory state of affairs as has been in the past. The welfare of Canadian industrial workers and of the unskilled labor shall be protected against undue and untimely invasion by aliens, and the right of Canadian and laborers during periods of industrial expansions and to check the influx when a redundancy of labor exists."

IRON MOLDERS STAND FIRM.

Pittsburg, Pa., Feb. 5.—Striking iron molders are standing firm in their demand for an eight-hour day. This movement started last November and is the first eight-hour fight of importance since the large centers of industry. About 400 iron molders have been granted the shorter work day while 900 are still on strike.

PERILS OF COAL MINING.

Charleroi, Pa., Feb. 5.—Two miners were killed and two others badly injured when caught under a fall of coal in the Globe mine of the Vesta Coal company. The injured were rescued by their fellows who dug them from a perilous position beneath eight tons of coal.

COLORADO STRIKE WON, WALSH TELLS MINERS

Indianapolis, Feb. 5.—"The strike in the coal fields of Colorado was won, because you compelled John D. Rockefeller to accept the responsibility for everything," declared the state senator of Colorado," said Frank P. Walsh, in an address before the convention of the United Mine Workers of America.

"The strike was won again, because you have compelled him to publicly acknowledge the essential scientific facts that underlie the right to collective bargaining on the part of workers. You won the fight because you compelled him to get a big enough unit of organization, but one that will teach the workers the first principle, the benefit of getting together, and one that when you begin to get action in the intelligent way that you have heretofore done in other coal fields of the United States will establish real collective bargaining under the United Mine Workers of America in the field of Colorado. It has taught women, my friends, far beyond the narrow field in Colorado. It received the background of the testimony of hundreds of employers who have dealt with their employes collectively for more than a score of years."

PRIVATE ARMIES DENOUNCED

Hibbing, Minn., Feb. 5.—Editor Atkinson of The Mesaba Ore opposes the practice of corporations maintaining private armies of gunmen. He says:

"The Oliver police is a force of trained and uniformed men in the pay of the Oliver Iron Mining company, and is in direct violation of the rights of liberty. These officers are deputy sheriffs, but their salaries are paid by the corporation. Therefore, how can they look to you who think you are living in a free country and under a form of government which insures life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness?

"Supposing now, for instance, there comes trouble at the mines and the mining companies see fit to order out its private police force to overawe those they deem need shooting down, then you can understand the nature of this prostitution of the laws of the state—wherein a private corporation is permitted to control and use the machinery of the sheriff's office to protect the mining companies in anything they may undertake.

"Our own county officers are hired by the corporation to shoot us down if we should do anything displeasing to the company, and suppose they did not see fit to bad as that, to be sure, but the power is there just the same, and we are thereby placing ourselves entirely at the mercy of whether the employes will or no, then private interests and private employers have the same right and the same power.

"In such a proposition there is neither liberty nor justice. It is the creation of a despot would make such pretensions.

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GANTON FOR POSTAL CLERKS.

Washington, Feb. 5.—The house committee on post offices and post roads has practically completed its work on the compensatory time for holiday service to postal clerks and carriers. The legislation was suggested by the National Federation of Post Office Clerks. Other than the bill to provide compensatory time for holiday service to postal clerks, and approved by the committee, are:

Restoration of the order of demoted collectors; promotion of 2,000 clerks from $1,200 to $1,300 and $1,400 yearly; raising the 1,000 clerks failed to keep step with the onward march of science and civics and has clung to tradition and precedent, and has set its face like a flint against new and even disfavor on any innovation, however meritorious, associated it as pernicious. And this applies with equal force to criminal as well as to civil procedure."

President Kagey made this declaration in connection with his demand for public defenders. He said this theory is gaining ground and that it is correct, from a moral standpoint, as the state owes it to the poor, who are unable to employ counsel, to provide a competent public defender. As for his services, to give him the same inquisitorial and other powers as the prosecutor, and, in addition to this, the state should provide pay for witnesses for the defense in all criminal cases.

BABIES WORK IN TENEMENTS.

New York, Feb. 5.—In a report to the Consumers' League, Mrs. Frederick Nathan, president, stated that 74 per cent of tenement work in New York City tenements are made in this city under conditions that should force the abolition of all tenement manufacture. Whole families were found working long hours under unsanitary conditions. Babies as young as 3 years were found working. One had learned to strip the gauze from leaves which had been dipped in wax. Four children in one family, the oldest 10 and the youngest 4, worked from 6 in the morning until 6 in the evening. A young girl of 15, a semi-invalid, putting stems on berries at 1 cent a gross, could only make 15 cents a day when her little sister helped.

INCREASES FOR CAR MEN.

Mt. Vernon, N. Y., Feb. 5.—Street car men's union, No. 498, has raised wages 1 cent an hour. The rates are now 25 cents for the first year and 28 cents thereafter.

Detroit, Mich., Feb. 5.—Street Car Men's union has presented a new wage scale to the local company. It provides for 28 cents an hour the first year and 30 cents an hour thereafter. Better working conditions are also included.

Springfield, Mo., Feb. 5.—Motormen and Conductors employed by the Springfield Traction company have again organized after several years of non-union conditions.

RURAL CREDITS URGED.

Harrisburg, Pa., Feb. 5.—Support for rural credits legislation now pending in congress was the keynote of funding big debt and paying it along long similar to building roads and bridges by issuing bonds and making payments on the measure of its possibilities" unless "supplemental legislation" is provided.

R. R. MANAGERS COMBINE.

New York, Feb. 5.—It is stated that officials of leading railroads of this country are considering plans to organize a general conference of railway managers to negotiate with representatives of the brotherhoods of conductors, engineers, firemen and trainmen, whose members are now voting on an eight-hour demand. It is proposed that this shall be the first time that the railroads have united to this extent.

UNIONISTS HONOR GOMPERS

Washington, Feb. 5.—A banquet by the Central Labor Union, January 27, in honor of President Gompers' sixty-sixth birthday anniversary was not only a fitting recognition of the life-long efforts of the A. F. of L. executive, but it was "a trade union revival," to use the term of one of those present.

Secretary of Labor Wilson and Representatives Buchanan, Casey and Nolan, members of the house labor group; Secretary Ernest Bohm, of the New York City Central Federated Union, and A. F. of L. Secretary Frank Morrison made short addresses. The latter referred to the misleading "clears" association with President Gompers, who, the speaker said, was successful "because of his unselfishness, his singleness of purpose and his power of concentration."

Secretary of Labor Wilson spoke of President Gompers' long activity in the trade union movement. "He has even saved many employers from the horrors of their own selfishness," said the executive workers' official. "No sooner has one evil been eliminated than the machinery of trade unionism is started to remove another."

In answering these eulogies, President Gompers said:

"It is scarcely just to only speak of achievements. Men in other ages have tried hard, but the superficial have voted them failures. Every labor worker who has uttered one truth has contributed to the cause of justice. If the world pays me the only tribute I ask, it will say, 'He tried his best to be of service to his fellows.' On every human being devotes duty and service to the extent their environment affords them opportunity to be useful. I am no better than I require information and to acquire a better understanding of men. To them I owe all my ability to give them the information they gave me the opportunity to acquire."

All of the speakers made reference to the significance of the Clayton law, which declares that "the labor of a human being is not a commodity or article of commerce."

URGE SHORTER WORKDAY.

Washington, Feb. 5.—In a circular letter to A. F. of L. officials and to all affiliated bodies, the workers of America are urged to concentrate every effort for the establishment of the shorter workday, at least an eight-hour day.

Attention is called to the following declaration on this subject by the A. F. of L. convention at San Francisco:

"Because of the far-reaching importance and effect of the shorter workday upon the material, physical and mental welfare of the workers, and because it is not too strongly impress upon all wage-earners the necessity to concentrate their every effort and energy in the securing of the general eight-hour workday for the workers engaged upon any field of human endeavor."

LAWYERS SHOULD BE UP TO DATE

Topeka, Kan., Feb. 5.—In his opening address to the Kansas Bar association, President Kagey said: "The administration of law has failed to keep step with the onward march of science and civics and has clung to tradition and precedent, and has set its face like a flint against new and even disfavor on any innovation, however meritorious, associated it as pernicious. And this applies with equal force to criminal as well as to civil procedure."

President Kagey made this declaration in connection with his demand for public defenders. He said this theory is gaining ground and that it is correct, from a moral standpoint, as the state owes it to the poor, who are unable to employ counsel, to provide a competent public defender. As for his services, to give him the same inquisitorial and other powers as the prosecutor, and, in addition to this, the state should provide pay for witnesses for the defense in all criminal cases.

BABIES WORK IN TENEMENTS.

New York, Feb. 5.—In a report to the Consumers' League, Mrs. Frederick Nathan, president, stated that 74 per cent of tenement work in New York City tenements are made in this city under conditions that should force the abolition of all tenement manufacture. Whole families were found working long hours under unsanitary conditions. Babies as young as 3 years were found working. One had learned to strip the gauze from leaves which had been dipped in wax. Four children in one family, the oldest 10 and the youngest 4, worked from 6 in the morning until 6 in the evening. A young girl of 15, a semi-invalid, putting stems on berries at 1 cent a gross, could only make 15 cents a day when her little sister helped.

INCREASES FOR CAR MEN.

Mt. Vernon, N. Y., Feb. 5.—Street car men's union, No. 498, has raised wages 1 cent an hour. The rates are now 25 cents for the first year and 28 cents thereafter.

Detroit, Mich., Feb. 5.—Street Car Men's union has presented a new wage scale to the local company. It provides for 28 cents an hour the first year and 30 cents an hour thereafter. Better working conditions are also included.

Springfield, Mo., Feb. 5.—Motormen and Conductors employed by the Springfield Traction company have again organized after several years of non-union conditions.

RURAL CREDITS URGED.

Harrisburg, Pa., Feb. 5.—Support for rural credits legislation now pending in congress was the keynote of funding big debt and paying it along lines similar to building roads and bridges by issuing bonds and making payments on the measure of its possibilities" unless "supplemental legislation" is provided.

R. R. MANAGERS COMBINE.

New York, Feb. 5.—It is stated that officials of leading railroads of this country are considering plans to organize a general conference of railway managers to negotiate with representatives of the brotherhoods of conductors, engineers, firemen and trainmen, whose members are now voting on an eight-hour demand. It is proposed that this shall be the first time that the railroads have united to this extent.

COPPER STRIKE ENDS; WORKERS MAKE GAINS

Phoenix, Ariz., Feb. 5.—The strike of 5,000 copper miners in the Clifton-Morenci-Metcalf district has been declared off. Substantial wage increases have been secured and the company will meet a grievance committee of employes every month to adjust differences. The settlement was secured through efforts of Commissioners Davies and Myers, of the federal department of labor.

The strike started September 11, last year, when 5,000 employes in the copper district suspended work to aid in the reinstatement of men discharged between that date and September 7 for joining the Western Federation of Miners. The companies refused to arbitrate this and other demands, which included higher wages and better working conditions.

The attitude of these companies is shown by the following signed statement by copper operators, shortly after the strike started:

"When it shall appear that conditions in this section warrant it and the companies are satisfied that the general sentiment of the community and their former employes is unanimous in favor of a resumption of operations on the basis of wages and conditions that have prevailed heretofore in this district, the companies reserve to themselves the right to decide whether or not they will again start up their properties."

This arrogant attitude was again shown when Gov. Hunt barred strikebreakers from the district. The operators then started a recall movement to oust him from office.

The A. F. of L. convention at San Francisco indorsed the strike and the Western Federation of Miners, whose solidarity has been responsible for better working conditions, higher wages and a shorter workday, and through unity they can secure a voice in the disposal of their labor power.

STATE URGES "SAFETY FIRST."

Sacramento, Cal., Feb. 5.—As the result of conferences between manufacturers and employes, under the auspices of the state accident commission, the latter body is preparing for distribution a pamphlet entitled "General Safety Orders," which will be issued under the commission to appoint advisors who shall, without compensation, assist the commission in establishing standards of safety. The state federation of labor recommended three representatives, the California Employers' Council, the State Fund and the Casualty Underwriters' association one. These, together with the commissioner's officials and rules for safety that include all industries is the result.

The commission states that safety in industry is not a "one-man job"; that satisfactory results can only be secured through a system of measures of cooperation between the employer and his employes, and this only by means of organization. It is pointed out that the employer himself must be vitally interested in the safety of his workers, and educate his men to share the responsibility with him, and that the men must be taught that it is their job, too. If their interest is to be aroused and maintained.

IMMIGRATION FIGURES.

Washington, Feb. 5.—Figures issued by the bureau of immigration, department of labor, show that 326,700 aliens were arrived at American ports during the month of December, 1915. The race that crowded Italy out of the first rank as a supplier of emigrants to America. Per December, 1915, Italy failed to keep step with the Portugal with 1,067; Russia, 963; England, 862; Italy, 627; Japan, 622.

The states of Italy, Russia, Servia, Montenegro and Roumania furnished only eight per cent. Michigan, 1,847; California, 1,638, and Texas, 1,357.

PRESIDENT GOMPERS IN FLORIDA

Tampa, Fla., Feb. 5.—President Gompers made a hurried trip from Washington to address the convention of the Florida federation of labor at the opening session last Tuesday. En route he stopped at Jacksonville, where he addressed a public meeting under the auspices of the trade union movement. Yesterday he addressed a mass meeting of Tampa organizations, today evening a public mass meeting of citizens, and on Friday was the guest of the Fair association and made the opening address at this exhibition. This Saturday he will address the local of the Tampa Rotary club and deliver an address at the annual breakfast of Florida editors. In the evening he will leave for New York.

WANT EMPLOYES EXAMINED.

Cleveland, Ohio, Feb. 5.—Trade unionists will make an effort at the next year to have the state legislature pass laws requiring physical examinations of all employes of the state, and the recent state safety exposition, held in this city, discussion centered around the need for such examinations. At the last meeting of the state federation of labor, held at Mansfield, President John Voll warned organized workers that this theory would be urged. The unionist said workers are entitled to examinations that will make possible greater protection to life and limb, but the plan of selecting only the physically fit for every industry will be resisted.

LABORERS RAISE WAGES.

Westfield, Mass., Feb. 5.—Several hundred laborers employed by the H. B. Smith company have raised wages after a three weeks' strike. These workers have organized a union and affiliated to the A. F. of L. They have secured an increase of 25 cents a day for day work, and 2 cents an hour overtime. It is announced as soon as a new schedule can be arranged the company agrees to recognize the union. The strike resulted in increasing the membership of the Massachusetts state federation of labor, and the plant is now almost 100 per cent organized.

OBJECT TO CLERKS UNITING.

Indianapolis, Feb. 5.—John A. Moffit, federal department of labor mediator, has failed to adjust the strike of railroad clerks against the Terminal railroad. General Superintendent E. M. Costin is opposed to these workers organizing. He has issued a statement that "we regard the interests of our employes." The clerks are attempting to enforce being considered.

OPPOSE CONVICT LABOR.

Oklahoma City, Okla., Feb. 5.—Trade unionists in this state are opposing Gov. Williams' recommendation that the state legislature shall be requested to lease all the state penitentiary as a business proposition.